



SENTENCING IN WISCONSIN

Snapshots of Information on Wisconsin Sentencing

5/13/2005

Volume 2, No. 7

Methamphetamine Cases in Wisconsin

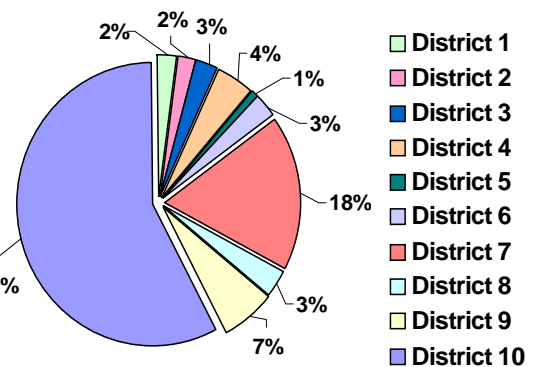
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The manufacturing, distribution, and use of methamphetamines are quickly growing problems in the state of Wisconsin. In addressing the issue, the State Legislature recently passed a bill limiting sale of ingredients necessary to make methamphetamines. The bill classifies pseudoephedrine hydrochloride—a primary ingredient in the production of methamphetamines—as a Schedule V controlled substance. This bill will require individuals to present a photo ID to store clerks at the time of purchase. In addition, it will also place limits on the quantity and frequency of purchases.¹ The purpose of this Snapshot is to provide summary information on methamphetamine rates in the State of Wisconsin. Using court cases sentenced between 2003 and 2004, the analysis looked at occurrences and trends of these cases by geographic distribution and offense types.²

Methamphetamine Cases by Judicial Administrative Districts

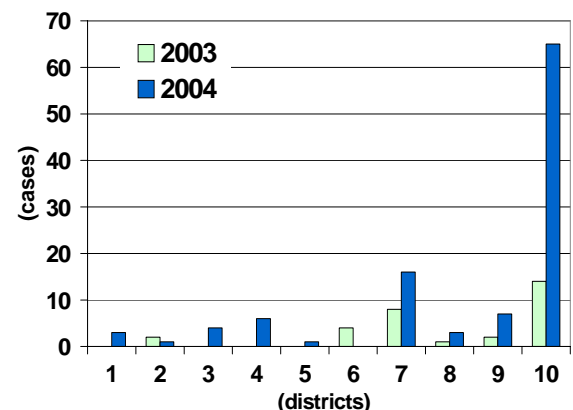
For administrative purposes, the Wisconsin court system organizes counties into 10 separate judicial districts.³ Among these judicial districts, the Commission's database currently contains 136 methamphetamine cases sentenced between 2003 and 2004. As illustrated in Figure 1, District 10 had the highest rate of methamphetamine cases, accounting for 57% of the state's total. The second highest rate belonged to District 7 with 18%. All of the remaining eight districts each had less than 10% of the cases, with District 5 having approximately 1% of the state's total.

FIGURE 1:
Percent of Cases by Judicial District



As shown in Figure 2, a sharp incline occurred in the number of methamphetamine cases from 2003 to 2004. District 10 saw the largest increase in cases, while cases in Districts 6 and 2 actually decreased.

FIGURE 2:
Case Totals by Judicial Districts (2003-2004)



districts recorded methamphetamine cases. However, in 2004, this number increased to nine districts, indicating a growing spread of these cases across the state.

Methamphetamine Cases by Offense Types

In order to gain a clearer picture of methamphetamine cases in Wisconsin, it is also important to discuss offense type distribution. As indicated in Figure 3, over the past two years 57% of all cases have been for *Manufacturing*. *Possession* accounts for 25% of these cases, while *Possession with Intent to Deliver* accounts 18%.

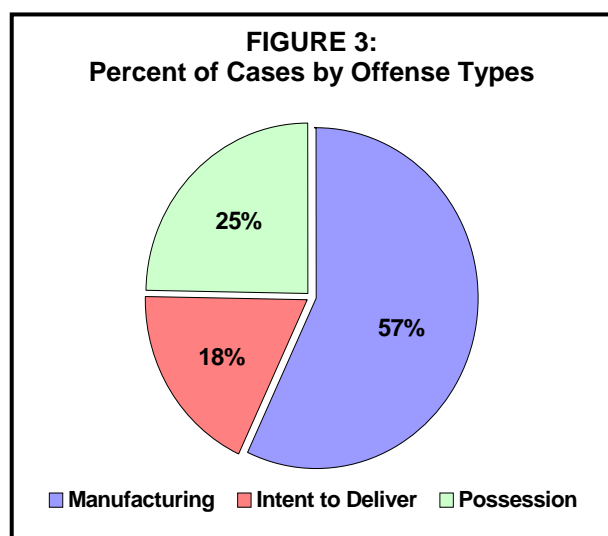
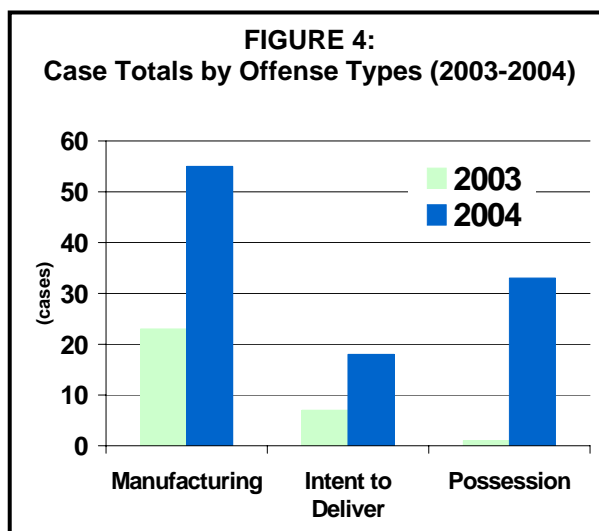


Figure 4 provides methamphetamine case totals by offense types. Between 2003 and 2004, all three types of methamphetamine offenses experienced an increase. *Possession* had the highest increase with 1 case in 2003 to 33 cases in 2004. This accounted for only 3% of all methamphetamine cases in 2003, whereas in 2004 it accounted for nearly 32%. Also important to note, both *Manufacturing* and *Possession with Intent to Deliver* experienced similar, yet lower, increases during this time period as well.



In conclusion, the number of methamphetamine cases appears to be rising and spreading across the state. Eight of the ten districts within the state have seen an increased number of cases, illustrating the growing problem in Wisconsin. Upcoming snapshots will examine the sentences associated with methamphetamine cases.

¹ <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/spotlight/index.htm>

² Based on Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) records provided to the WSC.

³ **District 1:** Milwaukee; **District 2:** Kenosha, Racine, Walworth; **District 3:** Jefferson, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha; **District 4:** Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Winnebago; **District 5:** Dane, Green, Lafayette, Rock; **District 6:** Adams, Clark, Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Sauk, Waushara, Wood; **District 7:** Buffalo, Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Trempealeau, Vernon; **District 8:** Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Waupaca; **District 9:** Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Menominee, Oneida, Price, Shawano, Taylor, Vilas; **District 10:** Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Sawyer, Washburn.